

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT, NEUCHATEL - QUARTERLY REPORT

DIVISION : QUALITY ASSURANCE + TECHNICAL SERVICES
SUBJECT TITLE : MATERIAL TESTING
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INCOMING INSPECTION FOR FTR

The incoming inspection of non-tobacco materials used by FTR gave the following results :

- 466 deliveries were inspected
- 10 deliveries were found noncompliant

The noncompliant deliveries were only packaging materials.

QUALIFICATION TRIALS

Qualification trials for cigarette and packaging materials carried out during the reporting period were guided by the objectives of :

- improving Product quality
- standardizing materials used in Europe
- evaluating alternative suppliers.

Plug Wrap

The Dexter-plug wrap-paper quality 2493 being of an old design, it was decided to develop in common (R&D and Dexter) a new paper with new specification targets based on optimal "runnability" and final product quality.
An initial trial with five different versions was tested. Positive "runnability" results were obtained. An industrial trial has just started.

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Plug wrap

An industrial trial was made with plug ex Mauduit. Due to water-absorption variations, mainly due to process fluctuation at Mauduit, it was decided to rediscuss this point with the supplier and wait for the results of the trials performed at the other affiliates before finalizing the technical sheet.

Soft labels

1. A confirmation trial was performed on the MPH-CH brand with the newly developed base-paper ex Biberist tested previously on the BRD brand. The trial was positive and showed good "runnability" improvements. This base paper will therefore also be introduced on the MPH-CH brand.
2. To improve the "runnability" characteristics of the MAK-CH brand using a very glossy base-paper, various basic paper executions without print, with higher and lower grammage, different suppliers, different grain direction and specially scored labels, were tested on a production machine. Most trials were negative except the trial using labels manufactured on long grain instead of short grain. It is planned to make an industrial trial with the Flint Brand, due to the fact that it is offset printed instead of gravure. Should the trial be positive, a set of printing cylinders will be ordered for the MAK brand.

ASSISTANCE TO LICENSEES AND HEADQUARTERS

A technical sheet and all complementary information needed to produce cigarette paper according to PM requirements were sent to the Italian supplier Maglio. It is planned to introduce this paper on the brand Diana.

Various tests were performed on request for EEC and EEMA headquarters.

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SUPPLIER CONTACT

Following various improvements made on the Mauduit and Dexter plug wraps, it was planned to standardize also the Schoeller and Hoesch plug wrap. A presentation was given to this supplier explaining the reasons why PM had to request a new plug wrap. Three new versions of plug wrap have already been submitted.

Special Projects

Additional electrostatic perforation trials were performed on the ESP unit installed at FTR Onnens. The trials confirmed that this unit gives variations outside PM acceptable limits, thus significantly influencing cigarette ventilation.

in. Obaufrecht

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